

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: FAA 2001-11090

Referencing the FAA document FAA 2001-11090 relative to the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF) "Friends of the Huey" program.

Qualifications:

I am a licensed private multi-engine, instrument pilot with over 2000 hours flight experience flying approximately 200-300 hours per year. I am also president of an EAA Warbird Squadron and have managed or participated in air shows and aviation events for the last 15 years. I have been involved in air shows and performances that range from a single ship to over 200 aircraft in the air at one time. In the pursuit of the EAA Young Eagle program, our squadron has participated in 'many' similar ride events where I participated not only as a pilot but also the organization of ground operations and safety. I assert that I have a practiced eye relative to the subject matter at hand and can comment authoritatively on the safety aspects in question.

In reviewing the document and conducting some research, it appears to me to be solely politically related and business motivated. It is my assertion that concerns over safety and operations of the AAHF can only have come from persons or individuals who have not seen this operation in person. I have had the opportunity to witness the AAHF Huey Ride program on a number of occasions and have even taken a ride myself. I can attest to the professionalism, attention to detail and the overall commitment to safety the organization holds as its standard from personal experience.

Throughout my experience in air shows I have yet to see a more professional and well-organized operation on the circuit. Their attention to detail with a focus on safety is un-matched in the civilian element. Indeed, composed mostly of former and current military pilots and personnel, the AAHF's level of professionalism approaches that our current military display teams and in my opinion indeed performs a valuable service to the community.

Having attended EAA Air Venture, Sun & Fun and other major events throughout my life and having participated in many in the last 15 years, I can say with certainty that the Huey Ride Program in fact meets its objective to connect and educate the general public with not only the Vietnam vet on what it was like to fly into combat, it also provides a sense of what our current men & women in uniform are going through in the protection of our country and lifestyle. This is an important issue in our nations current situation and the need to understand and support our military and what they face is as critical as it has ever been.

Most air shows today are still composed of WWII aircraft or aerobatic displays. This, from a time long past, with little connection to modern day circumstances. I cannot effectively describe or put into words the feeling and emotion one sees and feels when you witness a 50-65 year old man, who has lived through "Hell on Earth", break into tears at the site of a Huey and begin to relate his story to his child or grandchild - - - Perhaps for the first time.

This is the norm, not the exception.

I strongly support the exemption of CFR Sections 91.319, 119.5 (g) and 119.25 (b) given to the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation for the purpose of providing flight experiences to individuals around the country who are "Friends of the Huey" program.

As an active pilot and tax-paying citizen I believe the FAA has enough to deal with in existing challenges and issues and would hate to see the Administration embroiled in resource draining activities initiated, perhaps, by persons or entities with questionable motivation and agenda.

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